

In re: Dube *et al.*
Appl. No. 09/624,820
Filed: July 25, 2000
Page 2

29. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is conducted for a period of at least about 10 minutes.

30. (New) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article, comprising:

providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of water, a high fructose corn syrup, and a hydroxide;

subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to produce a flavorful caramel composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 150°C;

applying said flavorful composition to a tobacco material; and

preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco material.

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowance of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the above amendments and remarks, which follow.

Claims 10-12, 14, and 25-30 are pending in the application. Claims 10-12, 14, 25, and 26 stand allowed. New Claims 27-30 have been added. New Claims 27-29 are dependent upon allowed Claim 10. New independent Claim 30 recites the presence of a high fructose corn syrup in the mixture and Applicants submit that Claim 30 is allowable for the same reason as Claim 10. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, and particularly on pages 4-8 and in the original claims. Non-allowed Claims 1-4, 6-9, 13, and 15-24 have been canceled to expedite allowance of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue those claims in a continuation application. It is believed that the above claim amendments add no new matter and place all claims in condition for allowance. As a result, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.